

KUDOS and CONGRATS

To SSgt C. Wolf for his selection as the DINFOS Service Member of the Qtr. SSgt Wolf will now compete for service member of the year in December 2003. SSgt Wolf also placed 3rd in the Animation Category in the Milgraph Competition. In addition, SSgt Wolf who is the creator of "Sempertoons" donated books and prints to wounded Marines currently being treated at Bethesda Naval Hospital. **THANKS** SSgt Wolf for "taking care of our own" !!

Cpl Marcus D. Henry, MARFORPAC, 4641, graduated the Corporals Course as the Class Commander. Not only was he the class commander, he also received the Gung Ho award, which is awarded to the most motivated, dedicated Marine in the class and received a Letter of Appreciation for his outstanding leadership during the 3-week course.

From the Desk of the Occfld Sponsor Major Jerome Core



This month finds us losing two of our finest. Captains Charles Grow and Roger Smith will retire this month. From all of us to you, God Speed and Semper Fi!

Annual Conference

The conference went well and as a result, issues, tasks and actions were identified and assigned. Specifically on my plate is the harnessing of dedicated VI support to formal schools. Last FY, five formal schools (OCS, MCCES, CES, MCMWTC, MCCSSS and SOI) provided compensated structure to create twelve 4600 billets and one GS, VI civilian billet. Of these initiatives, VIM had visibility on three (MCCSSS, MCMWTC and OCS) and although we did not concur with the OCS growth, it was approved at Total Force.

In order to manage this type of growth, VIM recommended to CG Training Command (TCOM) and CG, Training Education Command (TECOM) to establish MCCSSS IMC as a "Pilot Program."

Why MCCSSS?

Because the CO MCCSSS, Col Pasco, believed so much in the "requirement" to provide dedicated support to the instructor staff to reinforce learning, and increase retention and sustainment that he compensated, out of hide, the initial six billets of which makes up the IMC today. Also, IMC's products, support and achievements are outstanding in light of personnel and equipment deficiencies.

After a year+ of working the issues with CG TCOM we gained his concurrence to the pilot, and as of 2 May, CG TECOM approved the pilot as a "formal program. "

What does this mean?

First, the pilot allows us to develop a "model" program in support of formal schools. This support must be compensated, meaning, in this case, TCOM identifies and provides compensated structure to meet the needs of the pilot program based on quantitative and qualitative data.....i.e., no more robbing Peter to pay Paul...no more taking from garrison bases and stations to provide support elsewhere.

Example: MCCSSS compensated (6) 46XX billets. These billets are reflected in the 05/10 T/O.

Second, GROWTH based on VALIDATED REQUIREMENTS is our goal as an OccFld.

Third, By CG signature, any and all 4600 structure requests will be funneled through VIM. Based on the pilot, this structure will be directed based on our occfld priorities.

VISION

During the 2nd year of the program, and based on quantitative data, the model can be applied to other formal schools throughout the Corps. This may include, MAWTS1-YUMA, MCAGTF-TC, Engineer School, SOI East/West, IMS West etc..

This pilot program (data collection, validation of requirements and structure) is approved for three years. This initiative will be ongoing and I will continue to update the community on its progress.

Image and Caption of the Month



030323-M-3692W-028

Marines aided by an Amphibious Assault Vehicle merge towards an objective March 23, 2003. The Marines are with E Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and are in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the multinational coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraqi's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

(Official U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brian L. Wickliffe) (For Public Release)

Imagery Management Report

Iraq Imagery	2558
3RDMARDIV	313
MCASCHPT	13
MCRDPI	14
MCRDSD	33

Total Received	2931
Posted to the web	1483

2003 Annual VI Conference Action Items

Marine Corps Order 3104.1 Rewrite Working Group

Mission: To coordinate, develop, update and write Change 1 to MCO 3104.1.

Tasks:

1. The working group will meet for 5 days during June 2003 to develop a draft that will be formally staffed by the Visual Information Management Office.
2. The Action Officer will request SME funding for the 5 members.
3. The Action Officer will coordinate input to the draft from all VI activities prior to the working group meeting.
4. The Action Officer will provide periodic updates to the VI community on the status of this project.
5. The Action Officer will remain assigned until the final revision is approved and signed.

Working Group Members:

1. Visual Information Officer--CWO Reid
2. Visual Information SNCO--GySgt Romanoski
3. Visual Information Civilian-- Mr. Mike Masters
4. Operating Forces Representative--CWO Thompson
5. Supporting Establishment Representative--WO Shell

Caption Writing Skills

Action Officer: WO Shell

Deliverable: Develop a Course of Action for a long-term process or solution that provides for increased and sustained caption-writing skills.

Due Date: 30 April and every 30 days thereafter

Possibilities:

1. Develop a MCI
2. Develop a Marine Corps Reference Publication
3. Provide changes to the MOS producing, VIM and VIOC Courses
4. Provide recommendations to the TTSB process
5. E-Courses @ www.navylearning.mil

Standard Operating Procedures for MCAS Beaufort

Action Officer: Capt Lujan

Deliverable: Coordinate and assist with the development of a SOP for MCAS Beaufort CVIC operations.

Due Date: 15 April

Software

Action Officer: Capt Smith

Deliverable: Provide an update on the status of the VI standardized NMCI software list that was submitted via TECOM G-6.

Due Date: 15 April

IG Inspection

Action Officer: MSgt Sawyer

Deliverable: Provide VIM with an updated Automated Inspection Reporting System (AIRS) Checklist. Coordinate with the Head, VIM and provide status updates to the community.

Due Date: Input 15 April Final submission 30 April

VI & Combat Camera Chiefs' Course

Action Officer: GySgt Bishop (Primary) & MSgt Mattocks

Deliverable: Provide status on the development of the course.

Due Date: 30 April and every 30 days thereafter

Reproduction Universal Needs Statement

Action Officer: CWO Thompson

Deliverable: Develop and staff a UNS for the upgrade of tactical reproduction. Coordinate with the Audiovisual Requirements Officer and provide updates to the community.

Due Date: 30 April and every 30 days thereafter

Dedicated Visual Information Support to Formal Schools

Action Officer: Major Core

Deliverable: Provide a status on the MCCSSS Pilot Program and new initiatives that impact VI support to formal schools.

Due Date: 30 April and every 30 days thereafter. (see Occfld Sponsor article above)

Imagery Management and Transmission Publication

Action Officer: WO Giles

Deliverable: Provide input to the MCRP Combat Cameraman's Handbook on the processes and procedures for imagery transmission. Provide updates on the progress of the MCRP to the community.

Due Date: 15 April

Visual Information Management Data Base

Action Officer: CWO Crone

Deliverable: Provide a status to the community of the Data Base UNS as it makes its way through the DOTMLPF process.

Due Date: 15 April and every 30 days thereafter.

Combat Camera Unit for Joint Taskers

Action Officer: MSgt Roberts

Deliverable: Develop and staff a UNS for the establishment of a Combat Camera Unit that would provided dedicated support to Joint COMCAM taskers. Coordinate with the Audiovisual Requirements Officer and provide status updates to the community.

Due Date: 30 April and every 30 days thereafter.

Marine Corps Visual Information Awards Program

Action Officer: Ms. Kurland & MSgt Mattocks

Deliverable: Develop a proposal for the establishment of a TECOM sponsored VI Awards Program that will promote imagery submission, recognize the creative achievements of our Marines, and provide increased submissions to DOD awards. Provide status updates to the community. Due Date: 15 May and every 30 days thereafter

Submitted by MGySgt Arroyo

The last article was on the preparation of our Marines for war. As I prepare for my own retirement transition to the civilian war zone and go through the steps of medical, dental and resume, I can't help but think of what we are doing to prepare our Marines to be employed. It is great that we can prepare them for war, but this will not do them or us any good if they can no longer stay in the Marine Corps.

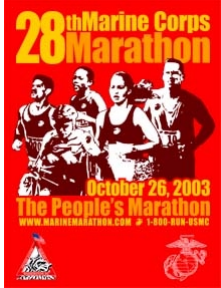
What is on our Marines official resume for his career better known as their OMPF? Promotion boards are still promoting or not promoting in accordance to the required PME. This is old news and everyone should know by now what PME is required for what grade. The truth is; they don't. We the senior enlisted leadership must stay active in the scheduling and making sure the Marines have the opportunity to attend required schools and complete required MCI's. The message that the Career counselors relay is "NO PME, NO PROMOTION". The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program will be a required PME and will be in effect Oct 2003. Get this message across to your Marines.

We, as senior leadership, are required to make sure our Marines remain competitive. Promotion photographs are good for 12 months. We work in this environment every day, we should make sure a photo is current at all times in the OMPF. Even if a Marine is in the below zone a photo needs to be current in the record book if they want to be competitive with their peers.

The last senior promotion board for Master Sergeant, 1st Sergeant, Master Gunnery Sergeant and Sergeant Major reflected the strongest selection for promotions out of the below zones. There were 15 MSgt, 1 MGySgt and 3 SGTMAJ selected from the below zone. This would probably mean that personnel in the promotion zone were less competitive for one reason or another, I would like to think it was not PME, Fitness Report or photo requirement that made personnel less competitive, but we all know that the possibility is real.

Actively view your Fitness Reports for completion and date gaps. Stay current with changes in the Performance Evaluation System. Make sure your Marines get to the required schools, both occupational and professional. We as senior enlisted must set the example in professional military education and initiative. If we can manage this, then our Marines will follow. Prepare your Marines for war, but make sure they will be able to stay Marine when the war comes.

Marine Combat Illustrator Inspired by Diversity Wins Marine Corps Marathon Annual Artwork Contest



Quantico, VA (March 27, 2003) - After assisting in the 2000 Marine Corps Marathon as one of the 2,500 Marines stationed along the race course and running in the 2002 race, Sgt. David Smith, Combat Illustrator, Headquarters Marine Corps, scanned photographs from previous years and decided diversity was the true face of "The People's Marathon." The resulting artwork, selected as the winner of the 2003 Marine Corps Marathon annual artwork contest, depicts male and female runners of various races and ethnic backgrounds.

"Sgt. Smith has captured the faces that make up the Marine Corps Marathon in his artwork," said Race Director Rick Nealis. "We aren't just Marines. The people who run this race represent every walk of life and every kind of challenge. That is captured in this year's winning artwork."

Brigadier General Joseph Composto, Commanding General of Marine Corps Base Quantico, selected the artwork from nearly two dozen entries as the look that will represent the 28th Marine Corps Marathon. For creating the winning artwork, Sgt. Smith will receive a complimentary entry to the 28th Marine Corps Marathon plus \$500 worth of Marine Corps Marathon clothing and training apparel from the new MCM store at www.marinemarathon.com. His artwork will be featured in all MCM publications.

"The scenery, of course is amazing, but the best things I remember are the cheers from people on the sides and even the runners themselves, pushing you to keep going," said Sgt. Smith. "Motivation to the extreme is how I would describe it."

Sgt. Smith is currently assigned to the Marine Corps History and Museums Division in support of the Korean War Commemoration. He has produced various commemorative products and materials in support of events honoring veterans of the Korean War. He is also assigned as the History and Museums Division's Webmaster. Sgt. Smith's personal decorations include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars and the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star.



Range 400 by LCpl Joey Chavez
Combat Illustrator, MAGTF-TC

Eject! Eject! Eject! submitted by MCAS Yuma

That is what SSgt Baxter, 4671, CVIC Yuma, heard through his Internal Communications System prior to pulling the handle in his ejection seat during back seat qualifications at MCAS Miramar.

SSgt Baxter, SSgt Picklo, Sgt Goede and Cpl Slim, all of the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Combat Visual Information Center recently went through 3 days of training to receive their back seat qualifications at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar California.

The first step in their training evolution was the Navy second-class swim qualification. These swim qualifications consisted of swimming 75 meters in a flight suit, treading water for 5 minutes and drown proofing. SSgt Baxter said that the swimming with the gear was actually a little more difficult than the Marine Corps swim qualifications because of the lack of buoyancy in a flight suit and helmet. After the swim qualification challenges were met it was time to visit the low-pressure chamber.



SSgt J. P. Baxter, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma Combat Visual Information Center, does the breaststroke during the swim qualification portion of the backseat certification process at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

The low-pressure chamber simulates ascending, leveling off at 25,000 feet and descending in the cockpit of an aircraft. When the altitude of 25,000

feet is reached the oxygen mask's are removed and the effects of hypoxia are felt. The trainees are asked to face each other and follow simple directions, such as patty cake, for a period of up to 4 minutes. The feeling of hypoxia has been described as being lightheaded, dizzy, hot spells, tingling and drunkenness. Once the state of hypoxia has been reached the oxygen masks are replaced and normal feelings return within 15

seconds. Some participants could feel pressure in their sinus cavities as well as the ears. Careful attention was stressed during descend to assure the body could compensate for the changing pressure.

The ejection seat may have been the most eventful training received as each of the Marines were placed in the ejection seat simulator and on command eject themselves at a rate of 3.5 times their negative body weight. It is described as being literally pulled out of your seat as if you were on a steep banked roller coaster.

SSgt M. R. Picklo, (**shown on right**) Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma CVIC pulls the handle on the ejection seat simulator during the back seat qualification process at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California Flight Physiology Training Center.

Lastly hanging from parachute guides the Marines practiced on the virtual parachute simulator. Untangling various unanticipated problems with the chute and landing in diverse conditions was the focus of this training. Landing on a ship in high winds, rain and fog was not uncommon during this evolution as each of the CVIC Marines took their turn at guiding their chute to a soft landing.

Having back seat qualification enables us the ability to amplify our documentation abilities for any aircraft aboard the air station and Marine Corps. Lets just hope we can do it all again next year (requal).



Quantico and HQMC CVIC's Merge Under Regionalization. **submitted by Mr. Ralph Anderson, Director MCNCRC CVIC**

THE **MARINE CORPS NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION COMMAND** (MCNCRC) CVIC officially stood up on March 25th. This regional CVIC incorporates the two Quantico and HQMC CVIC's. The MCNCRC will have its own MCC, T/O and comptroller. There are other organizations that have been regionalized under this initiative besides the CVIC. The Commanding General, MCB Quantico is dual-hatted as the CG, MCNCRC. We face some challenges but the cooperation to this point has been outstanding. We have shared our workloads, consolidated supply and fiscal management sections and reorganized the T/O. OccFld 46 Marines that work at the HQMC and Quantico CVIC will be managed from one office. The bottom line is that we will make this initiative work.

Defense Mapping School Becomes National Geospatial Intelligence School

Everyone has always heard the term "Defense Mapping School" and is familiar with training that has been conducted here at Fort Belvoir, Virginia since 1972 under the Defense Mapping Agency. Its former title was the U.S.ARMY Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, VA. It has always been a Joint Service School and remains so today. The curriculum has changed drastically since the days of the Army Engineer School as most of the engineering courses moved to Ft. Leonard Wood Missouri back in the 70's. Marines have been attending the school ever since I can remember and that dates back to the early 50's.

The curriculum has migrated from basic courses in Mechanical & Cartographic Drafting, Manual Survey and Survey Instrument repair to subjects preceded by "Digital" and "Geospatial"... Today's courses encompass names like Digital Reprographics, Marine Basic Lithographer, Basic Geospatial Intelligence Systems, and Imagery Analysis. Future courses will be titles like, "Central Imagery Analysis Course" and Geospatial Intelligence Training Management course. The school's name change is a result of the school becoming part of the National Geospatial Intelligence College in 1996, which is within the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

Course curriculum is driven by the ever-changing technology of the digital and global geospatial requirements of the Services. The new tasks defined by the Services are the basis for formulating new courses to teach the skills and knowledge's to perform those tasks. Often times in the new environment, the school has to lead the field in the introduction of new technology as defined by the DOD Chancellor of Education, and the Director of Central Intelligence, which includes the mandatory "Accreditation" of the institution and all courses taught within the institution. The NIMA College was one of the first institutions to become accredited as directed by the Chancellor's Office. This Accreditation increases the academic value of those courses, which is applied to college credits for our students to achieve a college degree. Currently that is at the undergraduate level, but we hope to change that with our more advanced courses to include graduate credits. Our student base has changed from Military, Foreign Military and DOD Civilians to Military, Foreign CoProducer Nations, All Federal Government and with the onset of Homeland Security, some state and local agencies.

The bottom line of the college and school has and will always be to produce students who are capable of performing on the job for whatever area of expertise they are in. Our basic premise has been "Hands on Training", fortified by redundancy until the task has been mastered. We measure our effectiveness by Student Surveys and Supervisor Surveys to include monitoring word of mouth responses from the NCOs and Officers in the field. The pride in our job is fortified by those Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, **Marines** and Civilians who come back to our school in positions of higher responsibility, rank and authority. Our success is your success in those students who can go out to the field and perform on the job to the highest standards and with the newest technology to produce Geospatial Intelligence Products for the Commanders in the field to provide National Security for this great country and our allies.

Another part of this story is the dedicated men and women who provide the training to our students, that is a follow-on story .

**Written by Robert D. Urban, Chief Curriculum Development, NGS.
MSGT USMC (4612 Ret)**

"Cultural Driving Differences in Thailand"

submitted by Sgt Benn Barr, 3rd MARDIVr

"While you are enjoying the beautiful Thai landscapes and getting used to the local customs, you can't help but notice the unique Thai driving habits." If you have ever been to Thailand, this quote from one of our recent productions will certainly have you shaking your head as you recall some of your experiences there. In fact, driving in Thailand can create such a culture shock that we were recently tasked by Lieutenant General



Gregson, Commanding General of III Marine Expeditionary Force, to produce a video detailing these cultural differences for potential military drivers in Thailand, due to several accidents caused during last year's Exercise Cobra Gold.

After a marathon script-writing process, GySgt Blair McClellan and myself spent a week in Thailand accompanied by Mr. John Williams, the III MEF Safety Officer, acquiring the necessary imagery for the project. It was not difficult to check off the shot list, which included homemade vehicle, entire families riding motor scooters, and even elephants walking down the highway. The purpose of the video is to shock and awe potential drivers, so they can focus on their driving missions once they arrive in Thailand.

Not to be outdone by GySgt McClellan's writing diligence, I locked himself in an edit cell upon our return to ensure the nine-day turn-around time could be accomplished. It only took five days, but who needs sleep?

After viewing the finished product, the III MEF Chief of Staff, Colonel Kearney, was beside himself. He couldn't believe that we had created such a professional product in such a short time and surpassed his expectations. We have produced copies for all units participating in Exercise Cobra Gold 2003. Marines will view it in transit on aircraft and on the High Speed Vessel WestPac Express. LtGen Gregson is issuing a memorandum that will require all personnel to view the video before driving in Thailand.



MARDET Ft Meade Conducts Outstanding PME

**By Capt Bakkar-Poe Detachment Co and GySgt Bishop, Detachment 1stSgt
Photos by LCpl Christopher Baez 4641 Student**

During a two-day in-service training period at Defense Information School Apr 24 and 25, 2003, 83 Marines and Coast Guardsmen conducted some unique Professional Military Education (PME), traveling to Gettysburg for a battlefield tour. The idea came from the Commanding Officer (CO) Captain Aisha M. Bakkar-Poe who has known the host of the event for three years, Cpl Seamus Garrahy, a Marine from the 1960's.

The trip started on the morning of Apr 24 with a two-hour bus ride to the Gettysburg Park and Battlefield. Upon arrival to the park the Detachment had time to tour the museum and sit through the presentation of the "Electronic Map," which provided a birds eye view of how the units were positioned throughout the three-day battle. After the map there was more time for photographs, viewing the Museum, and buying souvenirs before the Detachment moved to the home of Corporal Seamus Garrahy. Seamus's homestead is situated on five acres of land that serves as the final resting place for hundreds of Confederate and Union soldiers who fought during the Battle of Gettysburg that claimed 51,000 American lives. After eating their first issue of MRE's, the Detachment loaded on the buses to begin an abbreviated tour of key battlefield sites, led by Seamus. The four-hour tour consisted of the site where the battle began, the Gettysburg cemetery, Devil's Den, a charge up Little Round Top, and the Detachment reenacting Pickett's final charge. The Marines gained an appreciation for the importance of high ground, and how the Napoleonic tactics of the day were not appropriate for the advanced weaponry used by the Union Forces.



After the tour, the Detachment returned to Seamus's home for a class on weapons from SgtMaj Russ Rockwell (ret) that covered guns from the Flintlock to the M-14. SgtMaj Rockwell served in the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. The



go with the meal.

Marines had many questions for the SgtMaj. We were also given a chance to handle the weapons, and see how they were different from what we use today. After the weapons class, the Detachment set up the bivouac site in the back yard of Seamus's home. By the time we were set up, the chow was complete. Cpl Seamus, SgtMaj Rockwell, 1stSgt Vreeland (ret), Seamus's wife, Linda Bell, their families and the Gettysburg Bull Dog "Pete", cooked the best steaks that I have ever had. They also had beans, and bread to

After the meal the Marines gathered around a large campfire for what the Cpl



and SgtMaj call a time of "telling bad jokes, swapping lies, and trading Marine Corps Lore". This is the time that our hosts really enjoy and they guarantee will result in "unit cohesion and bonding." As the sun set, Linda Bell, Played Taps on her Bugle and the Detachment followed up with the Marines Hymn.

Brought goose bumps to our arms. The Garrahy's provide this experience that has earned the title of "Marine Corps Steaks and Beers," but for our Detachment it was renamed "Steaks and Coke," to over 2000 Marines a year. They showed our Detachment an awesome time. Many of the Marines stayed up talking with the SgtMaj till sunrise. The next morning we feasted on another MRE, loaded up the buses and headed back for Ft Meade. The Detachment is going to make this an annual event. After Learning the ropes, it is easy to organize, and the effort the Detachment staff put forward was rewarded with MOTIVATION.

Time for Change submitted by Capt Charlie Grow

Everyone experiences transitions through life. With your assistance we collectively prompted great change within Occupational Field 4600. An abbreviated list of our successes includes: publication of an order and a doctrinal pub, establishment of a VI Officer's course, transition from chemical to digital systems, and replacement of our garrison-heavy footprint with an operationally-focused Corps-wide reengineering plan that takes effect in Oct 2005. These accomplishments would not have been possible without your collective experience, outspokenness and willingness to participate in the change process.

I became an officer because I wanted to help heal the cancerous stagnation endured by VI Marines. Working with some of my peers against an ever-shrinking sea of nay sayers, we effected change that was initially greeted with negative statements like, "That [insert anything positive] will never happen." As I prepare to join the retired ranks, this new generation has replaced the old slogan with, "why isn't it done yet?" More than that, many of you have chosen to augment your words with action. Continue to challenge yourselves to perpetually raise the bar. If your past is any indicator of potential, then I believe that you will surely leave OF46 better than you found it.

I appreciate your help in turning several of my professional goals into reality. Thanks for truly being brothers, sisters, mentors and friends. Best of luck with your future endeavors. Semper Fidelis, Capt Grow.

The entire OccFld sends Capt Grow their best wishes and grateful appreciation for his contributions. You have been a mentor to subordinates, peers and seniors alike. Thanks and good luck!

Notes from the Occfld 46 Specialist

Capt Roger Smith

GT Scores. Marine Corps Order P1200, commonly known as the MOS Manual, defines the requirements for all OccFld 46 personnel. If you look at our four MOSs, every one of them requires that Marines possess a minimum GT of 100. The manual was changed in 1999 to standardize the MOS GT requirements for all four MOS's. If you had access to the personnel database you would find that **73** out of about 500 4600 Marines (regardless of rank) have GT's that are less than 100. It is important that the individual Marines work to improve their scores to meet the minimum requirement. It is just as, if not more, important that our leadership drives this from the OIC/SNCOIC level. The GT becomes increasingly important when the Marine desires to compete for enlisted commissioning or warrant officer programs or is forced to lat-move due to lack of 46XX boat spaces (a reality that is not likely to go away). For Sgt's and above, your GT score is also present on your Master Brief Sheet.

As the Education Officer at Yuma, I heard many Marines proclaim that they were hesitant to retake the test in fear of their scores decreasing. One method to prepare them for retaking the test and increasing their score is to attend the MASP Program. This four-week course is managed through the MCCS Education Center. The average score increase that I personally observed in Yuma was 15 points. This average would put most Marines over the 100 minimum score. But like anything else, the Marine will only get out of the MASP what her or she puts into it.

Military Academic Skills Program-

MASP is an **on-duty** education program with the overall objectives of improving the competency of active duty enlisted personnel in the academic skills of reading, math, and communication/writing. A Marine that successfully complete MASP will return to his or her MOS more confident and better prepared to perform the Marine Corps mission. Additionally, Marines will be better prepared to retake the ARMED FORCES CLASSIFICATION TEST and to begin exploring other alternatives including higher education.

PME, PME, PME Have you completed the minimum PME required for promotion? Or, have you gone above and beyond the **minimum**? The promotion board briefs whether a Marine is PME complete for his or her grade. If not, your record is set aside. If it is complete, your package is then briefed. **But what have you done to give yourself, AND YOUR BRIEFER, an increased edge on your competition.**

I know of a SSgt in our field that has completed the Staff NCO, Warfighting **AND** Amphib Warfare courses and has spent a good chunk of his time in the OPFORS. What would your package look like when compared to his? **Consider this.** Your promo packages are both the same, good fitreps, same MOS background, similar duty stations, no page 11's, lean-mean promo photo, 1st class PFT, expert with the weapons, **BUT** you have only completed the **minimum** PME. What Marine do you think that the **MGYSGT's** and **SGTMAJ's** sitting on the board are going to vote for?

I recommend that all Marine Sgt's and above read section G.1 on your fitrep. Would you be disappointed if your Reporting Senior gave you a B rating since you were "enrolled in the **appropriate** level of PME.....". What have **you** done to deserve a C, D, or E?

I can guarantee that very few, if any, board members have a clue on what 4600 Marines do, but **every board member knows PME**. And it becomes very evident when a Marine has completed "just enough" PME to get by.

It is your promotion package. It can be a **MINIMUM** package or something more. IT IS UP TO YOU!

NOTE: The CY 04 SSgt Selection Board will convene 22 July. All letters to the President of the board must be received prior to that date. If you have questions on submitting a letter to the board, please call me prior to 30 May.

Info From the Enlisted Occfld 46 Specialist

Master Sergeant Mattocks

Greetings VI Marines,

I now have 6 months of knowledge as your Enlisted OccFld Specialist. My goal is to share that knowledge with the VI community, thus allowing us to make a positive impact on our future with well-informed decisions. Here's this month's scoop:

1. To this date we still have **(2) 4611 Combat Illustrator, boat spaces** left for this fiscal year. There are several Marines in other MOSs submitting portfolios to re-enlist (lat-move) into this MOS. I'm asking all first term 4611s with an EAS before Oct 03 to email me with their career plans, acknowledging their awareness of the opportunity to re-enlist and feel free to indicate why you are not.
2. The **Annual VI conference** was very successful; several initiatives emerged with motivated Officers and SNCO to take the lead. We defined our mission's and billets at VIM, MARFORs, MEFs, DIVs, WINGs, FSSGs, and each of our CVICs.
3. **"Know your Job!"** Whether you are trying to improve your facility, equipment, or obtain supplies, these resources require funds. Knowledge of funding procedures is critical to the mission. Manpower is another critical component to success. Knowledge of **compensated** structure verses **uncompensated**. Manpower Management, Enlisted Assignments (MMEA) is not obligated to staff to your Table of Organization (T/O). MMEA tries to staff a percentage of your T/O, which is known as Authorized Strength Report (ASR).
4. **Stay connected!** Stay in contact with your VI Community, be sure to read the VI Flash, monitor the VIM web site, and utilize Marine On Line.

Lastly, I want to re-emphasize **"Manage Your Careers!"** Plan a year out in regards to your future geographic location, Special duties, formal schools, and Officer Programs. This works best when you seek the guidance of your Officers and Staff Non-

Commissioned Officers. Eventually, ***Stop/Move*** will be lifted and your input is one of the variables considered in your next assignment. However, the needs of the Marine Corp's will have the final say and once orders are generated, **"Execute!"**

Proud to serve,
MSgt Vonzell A. Mattocks

Visual Information Training
CWO3 Joseph Sanders, Visual Information Training Officer

Changes at DINFOS

Sorry for missing the VI conference, but this was due to my new assignment as the Head of Course Development, Directorate of Training for DINFOS. I now supervise all curriculum design for resident, non-resident, Mobile Training Teams (MTT), Service Unique training, and internal DINFOS Training. This change will allow me to perform my duties for USMC VI Training in a more efficient and "non-conflict of interest" manner. This has been a long time coming, but has been worth the wait.

As part of this change, I will ensure that all services training needs are met within DINFOS. I plan to meet with MCSC (CWO4 Golwitzer) to identify future USMC training requirements for the recently fielded TIPS system.

As the next few months develop, I will keep you updated per USMC VI issues within the school.

VI Chiefs Course (VICC)

I am working with MSgt Mattocks and GySgt Bishop to initiate the VICC this year. Both of them will attend the VI Officers Course (VIOC) in June, then step off on the VICC development. Our plan is to run the courses simultaneously and use breakout sessions for MOS specific items. This will ensure we have Officer & SNCO team building from the grassroots level. Each will know what the other does so they can support each other in the field. I only see success for the future of the OCCFLD with this concept. Kudos go out to the VI Chiefs for this suggestion developed at the 2003 VI Chief's Conference.

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Semper Fidelis!

Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Materiel Requirements Division
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An update on current and future initiatives at Requirements:

TIPS:

The Approved Acquisition Objective (AAO) IPT for the Tactical Imagery Production System was a success. I briefed the IPT on Monday of last week. After briefing the system and its capabilities as well as the status of our reengineering, they only had a few questions before final approval. I asked Capt Smith to come out later that afternoon to cover our reengineering plan to the panel in more detail. At the end of the day, we were approved for a total of 12 systems. The approval recommendation now goes to the Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) for ACMC signature. The advantage of this is that we will have more firepower when we compete for funding in POM 06. The ACMC had already approved 2 systems for 1st and 2nd MARDIV and another is in the works for 3rd. As you may know, the system has already been "battle tested" in Iraq. I caught a glimpse of the system on the Defense Link web-site with a photo taken by MSgt Farrell.



Image Gallery Screen
Resolutio...

4600 Database:

The UNS submitted by WO Chasse for a standardized job order database has made its way through the Capabilities Assessment Branch (CAB) and HQ C4I as well as the lead advocate (CE). It is now on the schedule for the DOTMLPF Working Group (DWG). I will be presenting this to the panel on May 20th. After a course of action is approved by the panel an IPT will be formed to develop exactly what we will need to include in this database. More to follow.

Psychological Operations:

Also on the schedule for the 20 May DWG is a UNS for the development of a PsyOps operation within the Marine Corps. Upon reviewing the UNS it makes specific references to the 4600 OccFld and our capabilities:

"The basic elements of this capability should include participation in the initial PSYOP planning, target audience analysis and product development of the tactical themes/messages for target audiences. Another element, product production equipment (leaflet/poster printers) is available in our Combat Camera and Visual Information community (OccFld 4600)."

What this means to us as an OccFld is that many doors are being opened and targets of opportunity are popping up as more and more elements of the operating forces realize what we can bring to the table. The lead element on this is PP&O. Not sure who will be briefing this to the DWG yet but I will be sitting in on the DWG to answer any questions concerning ComCam. We will also be participating in the IPT after the COA's are developed. More to follow.

DTV:

As I had mentioned in an earlier e-mail, the DTV UNS submitted by Maj. Core was briefed and approved by the DWG and I just spoke with the lead advocate rep (I&L) and the SPD is currently being finalized. What this means is that I will soon be receiving my "marching orders" to develop an IPT and begin the process of drafting the requirements documents.

Others:

There are more UNS's currently being developed from our OccFld as well as PAO. I have sent several samples to individuals and have helped others in developing their drafts. If you have any questions or need assistance in drafting a UNS let me know.

